



BERGEN COUNTY TECHNICAL SCHOOLS / SPECIAL SERVICES

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District Administrative Office

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Howard Lerner, Ed.D.  
Superintendent

### **COVID-19 Educational Update 4/30/20 BCSS Staff**

Dear Administration, Faculty, Staff and Parents/Guardians,

Welcome to May! We are now about halfway through the most recent period of school closure and remote operation directed by Governor Murphy. As with last week, we have no new information from the Governor's Office or the NJ Department of Education to share or discuss. We have all seen comments starting to appear in the news about COVID-19 infection statistics "flattening" in our state. Please remember that Governor Murphy's next decisions about how schools in New Jersey move forward will not be made until the week after next; and the Governor has repeatedly emphasized that his decisions on this issue will be made in consultation with educators and school districts based on information and advice he receives from public health and safety experts. The Governor and the NJ Commissioner of Education have also repeatedly emphasized that school districts must not speculate about school reopening dates unless and until the Governor specifically communicates that information. We will continue to honor this request.

Yesterday, April 30, 2020 the Board of Education approved my recommendation to revise the 2019-2020 BCSS school calendar to make the typical "reconciliation" of our school year to reach the state-mandated minimum 180 school days for students. The school year for all BCSS schools and programs will now end on Tuesday, June 23, 2020. BCSS staff working at host school and consultant based locations will continue to follow their host and consultant based districts' school calendars.

Board of Education President, Mr. Lentini, and the entire Board of Education specifically asked me to extend their appreciation to each and every one of you for your dedication, motivation and tremendous effort you invest in the work we do together each day to keep our schools operating for our students, even if our buildings cannot be a part of that right now. The Board is amazed and grateful every day when they see how extraordinarily well our programs, our faculty and staff, and our families at home have met the challenges that we have faced during this most difficult time.



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We continue to flourish. We have capitalized on opportunities to do new things, and do “old things” in new ways, as we work our way through this crisis. We will be better, individually and as a school district, on the other side of it. Thank you, once again!!

I extend to you my continued hope that you, your families and your friends are safe and well. As I have encouraged before, please take a moment to reach out to someone you care about to offer support, and remember that there are people you can reach out to for support if you are struggling at all. If we learn anything from all of this, it should be that we are without a doubt “stronger together”.

Stay safe, be well and enjoy the weekend.

Howard Lerner, Ed.D.

Superintendent